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**FROM:** Michelle L. Knight  
**OUR REF.:** SPM-379-A  
**YOUR REF.:** Serial No. 10/506,696  
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Our Reference: SPM-379-A

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Volker Krink, et al.  
Serial Number: 10/506,696  
Filing Date: September 3, 2004  
Examiner/Art Group Unit: M. Paschall/3742  
Title: ELECTRODE ELEMENT FOR PLASMA TORCHES  
AS WELL AS A METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

M. S. Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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Sir:

Transmitted with this document is Applicants' Comments On Examiner's Statement Of Reasons For Allowance in the above-identified application.

☒ No additional fee is required.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence was transmitted, via Facsimile, to Examiner M. Paschall at 571-273-8300, Group Art Unit 3742 on June 6, 2006.

  
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Our Reference: SPM-379-A

PATENT

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Applicants:	Volker Krink, et al.
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Title:	ELECTRODE ELEMENT FOR PLASMA TORCHES AS WELL AS A METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION

**APPLICANTS' COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S  
STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

M.S. Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner allowed claims 1-22 because "the prior art record does not set forth use of an intermediate layer between the electrode and the electrode holder such that a graded transition is formed between the two layers or a boundary layer formed having graded transitions between the electrode and the holder."

While the Examiner's Statement is applicable to claims 1-12 covering an electrode element for plasma torches, Applicants point out that the features referenced by the Examiner are not claimed in claim 13 and its dependent claims. The allowance of claims 13-22 does not rely on the features recited in the Examiner's Statement. With respect to these claims, the Examiner should have stated that the prior art fails to teach or suggest a method for the production of an electrode element for plasma torches comprising manufacturing said electrode element by applying compressive forces using one of a shaping method and a joining method using a sleeve-shaped part which forms a shell part made of one of a metal and a metal alloy having a higher work function and a higher thermal conductivity and electrical conductivity; and

Application Serial No. 10/506,696

Page 2 of 2

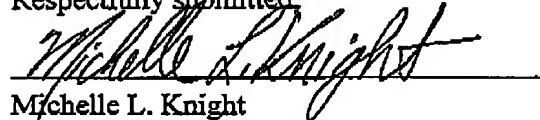
Date June 6, 2006

Reply to Notice of Allowability dated April 6, 2006

introducing at least one core element made of one of a metal and a metal alloy having a lower work function which forms said electrode and is connected as a cathode into the shell part.

Entry of these comments in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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